

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Kindly rewrite Claims 77-84 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

1 - 76. (cancelled)

77. (currently amended) A method of producing an L-amino acid comprising  
A) cultivating in a culture medium a bacterium transformed with a DNA  
that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, and  
B) ~~recovering said L-amino acid from the medium~~removing solids  
including cells from the medium; and  
C) purifying said L-amino acid from the medium obtained in step B).

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein  
said DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 187 to 804 of  
SEQ ID NO: 3.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium is  
further transformed with a second DNA that encodes a protein comprising the  
amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said second DNA  
comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said L-amino acid is  
L-threonine.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said L-amino acid is  
L-threonine.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said L-amino acid is  
L-threonine.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.